

THIRTIETH CONGRESS.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1847.

IN SENATE.

Mr. TURNEY presented the credentials of Mr. Bell, of Tennessee, who, having been duly qualified, took his seat.

The VICE PRESIDENT laid before the Senate the annual report of the Secretary of the Treasury on the state of the finances.

Also, from the Treasury Department, communicating the report from the General Land Office, exhibiting the operations of that branch of the public service for the last year.

Also, from the Treasury Department, a communication showing the amount of Treasury notes issued under the provisions of the act of the 28th January, 1847.

Also, a communication from the 15th January last, containing information in relation to the commerce and navigation of the Western lakes and rivers, railroads, means of defence, &c.

Mr. BRADY presented resolutions of the Legislature of Maine, recommending the construction of a railroad from Lake Michigam to the Pacific, on the plan of Asa Whitney.

Mr. JOHNSON, of Louisiana, submitted the following resolution: Resolved, That the Committee on Commerce be instructed to inquire into the expediency of making an appropriation to remove the obstructions to the navigation of the river Sabine;

Resolved, That the Committee on Commerce be instructed to inquire into the expediency of making an appropriation to remove the obstructions to the navigation of the river Sabine; and other papers on file in relation thereto, be referred to the said committee.

On motion of Mr. MANGUM, it was Ordered, That the Committee on Naval Affairs consist of seven members during the present session.

On motion of Mr. SEVIER, it was Resolved, That the Senate do now proceed to ballot for officers of the body.

OFFICERS OF THE SENATE. The Senators then proceeded to prepare their ballots for Secretary of the Senate, when the whole number given was in Mr. DICKINSON, having received 46 votes, was declared duly elected.

The Senate then proceeded to ballot for Sergeant-at-Arms and Doorkeeper. Whole number of ballots given in 49, of which number ROBERT BELL, having received 37, was declared elected.

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CHIEF CLERK OF COMMITTEES. Mr. MANGUM said it was generally considered that the chairman of the several committees had been agreed on; and, as he had a list before him, he would, with a view to save time, make that list be appointed.

The suggestion having been acquiesced in, the chairman of the various committees were appointed by separate votes on their several nominations.

The names of the Chairmen thus selected are given first in order of Committees, as they are printed in Tuesday's proceedings.

Mr. MANGUM moved that the further consideration of the subject be postponed until to-morrow; which motion having been agreed to, the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The Standing Committees, provided for by the Rules, the appointment of which was ordered on Thursday last by resolution, were, upon the reading of the Journal of this morning, announced as follows:

Committee on Elections.—Messrs. Richard W. Thompson, Joseph Mullin, Lucien B. Chase, Nathaniel Bayden, Timothy Jenkins, John Van Dyke, J. Dixon Rowan.

Of Ways and Means.—Messrs. Samuel F. Vinton, Robert Toombs, James J. McKays, Charles Hudson, Geo. S. Houston, Charles S. Murrendell, James Pollock, Samuel G. Hubbard, Henry Nash.

Of Claims.—Messrs. John A. Rockwell, John Crowell, John R. Daniel, Wm. Nelson, David Wilmot, George H. Dunn, Thomas W. Ligon, Thomas S. Flournoy, James G. Thomas.

On Commerce.—Messrs. Washington Hunt, Joseph Grimes, W. R. Smith, Moses Hampton, Barton G. Johnson, Theodore Deane, John Wentworth, Dudley S. Gregory, Archibald Atkinson, Kingsley S. Bingham.

On Public Lands.—Messrs. Jacob Colman, Alexander H. Stephens, J. A. McLennan, Garrett Duncan, Richard Broadhead, Harvey Putnam, John Jameson, Alex. Evans, W. R. W. Colver.

On the Post Office and Post Roads.—Messrs. Wm. L. Goggin, James M. Root, Charles Brown, Daniel B. St. John, John S. Phelps, Kisha Estreline, George W. Jones, Abraham Lincoln, David S. Kaufman.

For the District of Columbia.—Messrs. John G. Chapman, A. T. Williams, James McDowell, Washington Barton, W. O. Pickens, Henry, Alex. D. Sims, Thomas O. Edwards, Benjamin B. Thurston.

On the Judiciary.—Messrs. Joseph R. Ingersoll, George Ashman, John Pettit, Nathan K. Hall, John H. Lumpkin, James Dixon, Richard French, John L. Taylor, Richard K. Meade.

On Revolutionary Claims.—Messrs. Daniel P. King, Chester Butler, Franklin W. Borden, Robert L. Rose, Alfred Iverson, David Outlaw, Jonathan D. Morris, Wm. A. Newell, E. K. Smart.

On Public Expenditures.—Messrs. Thomas L. Clingman, John Simons, Henry Bedford, Artemus Hale, W. P. Hall, John W. Jones, Emile La Sere, Franklin Clark, H. S. Conger.

On Private Land Claims.—Messrs. John Gayle, J. E. Brady, J. B. Bowlin, W. W. Wick, David Ramsey, Jr., J. H. Harmonson, P. W. Tompkins, R. S. Canby, Andrew Johnson.

On Manufactures.—Messrs. Andrew Stewart, Amos Abbott, Joseph A. Woodward, John W. Houston, Joseph E. Edsall, Elizabeth Sherrell, Wm. G. Brown, John W. Crisfield, James H. Johnson.

On Expenditures in the Navy Department.—Messrs. P. W. Tompkins, Nathaniel Boyden, Wm. B. Maclay, B. L. Clark, Amos Tuck.

On Expenditures in the Post Office Department.—Messrs. James Wilson, Orlando Kellogg, C. E. Stuart, S. Leffler, John B. Thompson.

On Expenditures in the Public Buildings.—Messrs. E. C. Cameron, Cabell, James G. Hampton, Wm. Sawyer, Elias B. Holmes, W. A. Richardson.

On Enrolled Bills.—Messrs. James G. Hampton, J. L. Robinson.

The following members compose the select committee appointed on Monday last to revise the rules of the House of Representatives: Messrs. C. J. Ingersoll, Wm. S. Howell, C. G. B. Smith, C. M. Bragg, Robert McClelland, J. G. Chapman, M. P. Gentry, T. Jenkins.

A message was received from the Senate announcing the death of the Hon. JAMES W. HENNINGTON; when— Mr. JOHN A. ROCKWELL, of Connecticut, rose and pronounced an appropriate eulogium on the character of the deceased, which he concluded by moving the usual resolutions in respect to his death; after which— The House adjourned.

OBITUARY.

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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1847.

IN SENATE.

The following bills were introduced on leave, read a first and second time by their titles, and appropriately referred: By Mr. DIX: A bill to establish a branch of the mint of the United States in the city of New York.

A bill concerning certain collection districts, and for other purposes.

A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to make an arrangement or compromise with Mangle M. Quackenbush, &c.

By Mr. BRESEE: A bill to reduce and graduate the price of the public lands, and for other purposes.

A bill for the relief of Joseph Wilson.

By Mr. DICKINSON: A bill to amend the act entitled "An act for the regulation of seamen on board the public and private armed vessels of the United States," passed 3d March, 1813.

By Mr. WESTCOTT: A bill further to carry into effect the provisions and stipulations of the 9th article of the Florida treaty, and to stipulate certain losses of Spanish subjects in West Florida.

By Mr. BRADY: A joint resolution for the relief of David Shaw and Solomon T. Corser.

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED. Mr. DICKINSON submitted the following resolution, which was ordered to be printed:

Resolved, That, in organizing a territorial government for territories belonging to the United States, the principles of self-government upon which our federative system rests will be observed, and the confederacy strengthened, by leaving all questions concerning the domestic policy therein to the Legislatures chosen by the people thereof.

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feels to belong to a party that must regard them and their votes with disgust. As a Whig, I utterly repudiate such men as political associates."

Mr. GIDDINGS interposed, and remarked that he did not desire the Clerk to read the residue of the article, if its reading were not called for by others. [Several voices: "Read, Read!"]

The Clerk accordingly read the residue of the article. Mr. GIDDINGS also desired the Clerk to read a few lines which appeared under the editorial head of the same paper.

The Clerk read as follows: "We intend to prepare a full statement of the course of those who deserted their party on the occasion of the election of the officers of the House of Representatives, and to send two thousand copies of the 'National Whig,' in which it appears, into each of the districts of those gentlemen, in order that they may be made acquainted with the facts in the case."

Mr. GIDDINGS then said: "This paper was put into my hands on Saturday last, and is the first copy I have met with. It was established in this city some six months since, with the avowed purpose of promoting the election of General Taylor to the Presidency. The proprietors are not made known in the avowed part of its columns in the ordinary manner; but their names are left out of view. Common fame speaks of the establishment as a joint-stock concern, held principally by a political clique of this city, but in the support of which some members of this House are interested. These facts, however, I only speak in general terms. The editor does not say whether, though it is said that he was formerly from New Orleans, and more recently an appointee under the administration of Mr. Tyler; yet we have no very definite knowledge on this point; and it appears quite evident that the owners, the editor, and correspondents think it policy to keep hid from the public eye any appearance to have formed a political club, with a specific interest in guiding the Whig party in the coming Presidential contest."

I now call attention to the articles read at the Clerk's table. The first appears to have come from an anonymous correspondent; but it speaks familiarly of what passed in the Whig caucus, and is by many supposed to have emanated from a member of the caucus. It is, however, not to be taken as driven from his hiding place, and compelled to stand forth to the public gaze. It is no part of my present object to speak in explanation of the votes which I gave at the election of Speaker and Clerk. In the course which I then pursued I was guided solely by the dictates of my own conscience, and not by any responsible only to my constituents and to my God. For the manner in which I discharged that duty I shall at all times hold myself ready to give explanation to those who will inquire of me, or whenever I may deem it due to my own fame. Intimations have gone out that gentlemen on this floor were greatly dissatisfied with me, and that I had not only to act upon all matters which shall come before us, but to be prepared to vindicate my official acts whenever they should be called in question. I hope he may be well to well what it is due to my own self-respect and to the constituency which I represent, to enter upon any explanation in reply to such attacks as those contained in the paper just read. I, however, will say to the House that these assaults are perfectly undeserved. Their object is to browbeat members and intimidate them from following the dictates of their own judgment in the discharge of their duty. It remains to be seen how far their objects will be attained."

Certain letter-writers, also, whose communications have appeared both in New York and Philadelphia, appear to have acted in concert with the writers in the National Whig; and are desirous of being regarded as whippersnappers of the Whig party. Although I have not seen any of the papers in which they appear, I will give as a specimen of their language a short extract from one of their letters, in which the writer, speaking of the votes of myself and my honorable friend from Massachusetts, (Mr. PALFREY), says: "I forbear for the time from enlarging upon this topic as I do not desire; but abundance of occasion will be presented, when, on the subject of the Whig party, I will have to say those who have attempted to use the Whig party as the stepping-stone to political ambition, and as the cover of schemes which no Whig should countenance or tolerate, come what may. I shall not shrink from this task, as they will discover before the session is over."

Others hold similar language, and I rose more for the purpose of disabusing the Whig party of all participation in such sentiments than from any personal consideration. In saying this, it may be proper that I should say that I have told my private friends that I should not be surprised if I were to see some of the Whig party in the ranks of the Democrats. I also represent the strongest Whig district of the United States. In that district I have resided, man and boy, for nearly half a century. I grew up from a child with its advancing settlement, and contributed in some humble degree to the formation of its political character. It has never been represented except by Whigs, and I have never seen any political fact in my life which I should feel disposed to justify in me, were I to permit that people to rest under the imputation of being politically associated with sentiments of those alluded to. Sir, I am sure that I utter the feelings every Whig in this Hall and elsewhere, when I say that I am a party, and have never been a member of any other party, and that I trust in God the day is far distant when sentiments like these shall be harbored or acknowledged by a party to which I have from its formation been attached. Here the subject dropped.

Mr. C. J. INGERSOLL, from the select committee appointed to revise the rules and orders of the House, by general consent of the House, reported that he had prepared a bill, which he presented, and was made the special order of the day for Thursday next.

Mr. TALLMAGE presented the memorial of James Monroe, of the city of New York, praying to be admitted to a seat as a member of the House of Representatives for the thirty-first Congress, and also to be sworn in as a member of the same. Referred to the Committee of Elections.

ELECTION OF CHAPLAIN. Mr. POLLOCK moved that the House do now proceed to the election of Chaplain. Agreed to.

The SPEAKER announced that nominations would now be received. Mr. LAYN nominated Rev. R. W. Cushman, Baptist.

Mr. ASHLEY nominated Rev. Orville Dewey, Congregationalist.

Mr. J. Q. ADAMS nominated Rev. R. R. Gurley, Presbyterian.

Mr. MELANX nominated Rev. J. N. McIlhenny, Protestant Episcopal.

Mr. STANTON nominated Rev. Levi R. Reese, Methodist.

Mr. PATTIS was excused from voting.

Mr. SAWYER was also excused from voting.

Mr. LAYN, Mr. ASHLEY, and Mr. MELANX were appointed tellers.

The SPEAKER then directed the Clerk to call the roll, which having been done—

The roll was called, and the whole number of votes given was 269; necessary to a choice 103: of which—

Rev. Mr. Gurley received..... 71
Rev. Mr. Dewey..... 29
Rev. Mr. Cushman..... 50
Rev. Mr. Melanx..... 30
Rev. Mr. Reese..... 18

Nineteen ballots having received a majority of all the votes given, there was no election.

A second ballot took place without effect, when Messrs. DREW and REESE having been withdrawn, a third ballot resulted as follows:—

The Rev. Mr. Gurley received..... 102
The Rev. Mr. Cushman..... 101
The Rev. Mr. Dewey..... 100

The Rev. Mr. Cushman was declared duly elected Chaplain for the present session of Congress.

HEIRS OF JOHN PAUL JONES. A bill from the Senate for the relief of the heirs of John Paul Jones was taken up and read twice by title.

Mr. POLLOCK hoped that this bill would be allowed to pass through all its stages. The history of it was, that, at its last reading, it was passed by a large majority in the House, and by the Senate almost unanimously, with a ruling amendment, in which this House concurred. It was regularly engrossed and enrolled, but, on being carried to the President's room, it was accidentally dropped, and in that way failed to receive his signature and to become a law. Immediately on the receipt of the message, the Senate again took up this bill and passed it almost unanimously, and its merits were clear, there was, he supposed, no doubt, that it would not now give it his hearty support. These bills have been before Congress for a quarter of a century, and justice required that they should now be granted by the President. He hoped, therefore, that the House would do what justice required—pass this bill by a ruling amendment, in which this House concurred. 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